



Taste of the Caribbean Goes Virtual Next Saturday

Riverfront Plaza will not be awash in the sounds of steel drums and the smell of jerk chicken this summer. The highly popular Taste of the Caribbean and Jerk Festival has been canceled to further prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Instead, organizers of the festival will

host an online virtual festival starting at 7 pm on Saturday, August 1. The virtual festival will be a trip down memory lane through 14 years of festival performances by top international musicians and promising local talent. Go to TasteCT to find out how you can

watch the show on YouTube, Instagram, Vimeo and Facebook. The website also has information on obtaining discounts for the evening from four restaurants: Dunn's River Restaurant, Fire n Spice Vegan Restaurant, Jamske's Caribbean Restaurant and Lion's Den Vegetarian Restaurant.

The Hartford News

July 23 – 29, 2020



A View From Council Chambers

Part 2 of an interview with the WFP's Josh Michtom

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Party of two

Moving on from last week's subject of HPD, Chief Thody, and his opinions on policing, Michtom spoke of the most significant challenges he and Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez face as a minority party of two serving on a Democrat-controlled council. "Math, mostly! In all seriousness, the frustration I have, which I've discussed with Wildaliz, is that because the majority doesn't feel much--if any--electoral pressure, all of our efforts at transparency and public information don't mean much. No argument is good enough, it seems, to persuade them if the powers that be haven't given it the high sign. And no vote they take is plainly bad or embarrassing enough to keep them from taking it. But I guess that just means it is Wildaliz's and my job to engage enough voters to hold the Democrats accountable come election time. I honestly feel that Councilwoman Bermúdez and I have the potential to appeal to a wide base of voters, but I also know that retail politics is hard. There is no one newspaper that most of Hartford reads, or one single language in which they read. It is very hard to reach and engage a lot of people, and I recognize that we owe our seats to the state's Minority Party Representation law. Still, if the WFP was able to pour a lot of resources into our race, or if Wildaliz and I really had the time to spend six months or a year campaigning, I think we could gain seats."

A skewed power structure?

The Democratic Town Committee (DTC) has long been recognized as a powerful force in city politics, particularly regarding who receives their nominations for office which many say always translates into a November win for their slate. Is it a stranglehold that can never be beat? According to Councilman Michtom, "I understand that in theory, the Democratic Town Committee has the potential to be radically democratic--emphasis on the lowercase d--because anyone can register Democrat and go participate in meetings in their community and have an impact. Somehow, though, it doesn't work out that way in practice. Honestly, I don't quite understand why that is: there's not very much wealth or influence to be had by being on City Council, so I don't see why anyone would covet the job enough to fall in line with party dictates. But that seems to be what the Democrats do. They defend programs and policies that they know aren't popular with no regard for electoral consequences, since, as you say, getting on the party line is



Pro Soccer Returns to Hartford!

After a delay of four months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartford Athletic finally opened their home season at Dillon Stadium Monday night with a 3-1 win over Loudoun United. Attendance at the game was limited to 25 percent of Dillon's maximum capacity. All spectators had to wear masks and practice social distancing. Above is Athletic's Gabriel Torres (green and blue jersey) stealing the ball away from Loudoun's Jacob Greene. At right is Athletic's Danny Barrera pushing the ball past several Loudoun defenders. In a show of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, all Hartford players wore BLM armbands and players from both teams knelt during the National Anthem. Hartford Athletic will play its next game this Saturday, July 25, at 7 pm at Dillon Stadium. (Hart photos)



Hartford...Once Upon a Time



Our old friend, the late Tony DeBonne, took this photo in May, 1978. The child at left is Tony's daughter, Samantha. The woman at right is a Hartford legend, "Mom" Bazinet. The two are shown in front of Bazinet's thrift store on Buckingham Street in May, 1978. For decades, Mom's Bazinet sold a wide variety of clothes and other items for rock-bottom prices. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford Public Library's Hartford Collection)

NEWS BRIEFS

Virtual Meeting on Upcoming School Year

Hartford Schools Superintendent Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez will present a preview of the upcoming school year during a Virtual Town Hall Meeting TONIGHT, July 23. Tune-in by going to www.hartfordschools.org/TownHall from 5-5:30 pm for English and 5:45-6:45 pm for Spanish.

Black Lives Matter Mural to be Unveiled

A new Black Lives Matter mural painted on the side of the old Swift Goldleaf factory building will be unveiled today, July 23, at 5 pm. The Swift Factory is located at 60 Love Lane in Hartford's North End. The event is free and open to the public. Before the unveiling, community members are invited to help finish the mural starting at 12 noon.

Sidewalk Repair Projects Announced

Hartford Department of Public Works (DPW) has evaluated and prioritized sidewalks near schools, community centers and other public facilities, and identified those that posed the most risk for pedestrians. All sidewalk work will include ADA ramps and curb treatments that meet current Federal standards. Below is a list of the sidewalks scheduled for repairs:

- Arnold Street between Hillside Ave & Zion Street
- Catherine Street between Ledger Street & Zion Street
- Edgewood Street between Vine Street & Enfield Street
- Goshen Street between New Britain Avenue & Stanwood St.
- Holcomb Street between Granby Street & Blue Hills Avenue
- Lyme Street between Burnham Street & Branford Street
- Nepaug Street between New Britain Avenue & Waterford St.
- Stanwood Street between Montrose St. & Newington Ave.
- Vineland Terrace between Vine Street and Enfield Street
- Waterford Street between Goshen Street & Newington Ave.

Residents can submit sidewalk repair requests to Hartford 311 through the app or by calling (860) 757-9311 for consideration. DPW will review all requests and determine future repairs.

Trinity Street Black Lives Matter Mural Creation July 24-26

BY DONNA SWARR

Spearheaded by community activist Levey Kardulis and artist LaShawn Robinson, with support from the City of Hartford, the creation of a Black Lives Matter mural on Trinity Street will become a reality.

Sixteen professional artists have each created a design for one letter from the words “Black Lives Matter” to be painted on the street between the State Capitol and the Soldiers and Sailors Arch on Trinity Street this weekend, July 24 - 26.

The following artists are volunteering their design and the creation of the artwork: LaShawn Robinson; Natalie Langliese; Anika Perez; Jarod Thompson; Linda Robinson; Kathleen Maldonado; Jasleni Brito; Che LaMore; Latoya Delaire; Jhiyear Thompson; Kayla Chelu Farrell; Arie Delaire; Andre Rochester; Candace Donaldson; Anne Gogh; Deka; Flybomb; and Jason Farquharson. The outline will be applied to the street Thursday evening and paint-

ing will take place Friday and Saturday.

Five to ten volunteers from many organizations will assist the artists at designated times and social distancing will be maintained. These organizations include: Hoopwaves; Kamora’s Cultural Corner; Poetry Matters; Hamden Board of Education; Self-Suffice; Blue Hills Civic Association, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Posh Paint; Joy Monroe’s Art Studio; JuJu Camacho; Hartford Compass Peace Keepers, and Hartford’s Youth Corps. Janice Castle has been the lead from the City of Hartford, which is providing the PPE, water, snacks, all paint supplies, staff, and the HFD medical staff will be on-site.

Please attend the Mural Reveal event which will be held on Sunday, July 26th from 1-3 p.m. Trinity Street will be closed until early September so that the mural can be viewed.

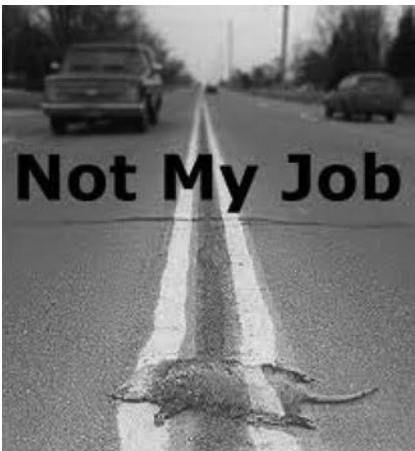
NOT MY JOB

Whose turn is it to take out the trash?

BY TOM SWARR

After 30 months of painful negotiations to structure a project to refurbish the Hartford incinerator, MIRA’s request for \$330 million of funding to move the project forward was rejected by Governor Lamont. DEEP Commissioner, Katie Dykes stated, “It’s time for new ideas.” In a letter issued July 14th, DEEP rejected MIRA’s 2021 plan of operations that assumed the only feasible option was shipping our waste to out-of-state landfills as a “false choice.”

While MIRA conducted a board meeting to discuss the DEEP decision, Governor Lamont and Commissioner Dykes held a press conference to promote Blue Earth Compost as the kind of innovative solutions to managing our waste that CT needs. The Commissioner spoke of partnering with municipalities, catalyzing markets, and tapping the entrepreneurial spirit of private companies to leverage the efforts of companies like Blue Earth, rather than investing in the outdated Hartford incinerator. MIRA was directed to submit a revised plan of operations by September 15th that considered “other innovative and environmentally – positive measures that promote self-sufficiency and predictable costs.”



return the property to the City for future economic development. The state has emphasized environmental justice concerns, which would also argue against siting any new waste management operations on the MIRA property.


An even bigger obstacle is section 22a-268 which mandates that MIRA may contract with private entities provided the agreement “... shall contain such terms and conditions as will enable the authority to retain overall supervision and control (my emphasis) of the business, design, operating, management, transportation, marketing, planning and research, and development functions...” What private company would be willing to invest its capital, assume operational risk, and then surrender all control of the business functions necessary to manage their risk? This was a major stumbling block in the negotiations to refurbish the trash plant. Connecticut talks about public-private partnerships, but also stated no state subsidy (investment) was contemplated under PA 14-94. Sam King of Blue Earth made this key point at the press conference. “We have the technologies. We just don’t have the investment.”

I have a saying: If you approach an organization for something that is in their title, you probably won’t be getting it. Think of “Customer Service” or “Help Desk”, just to name a couple. Why I am skeptical about getting innovation from MIRA? PA 14-94, which created MIRA also imposes significant barriers to the role DEEP is proposing for MIRA.

DEEP suggested MIRA consider measures such as unit-based pricing or source separation of food waste. However, section 22a-262(5)(c) of the CT General Statutes forbids MIRA to conduct “activities related to statewide recycling education and promotion or the establishment of statewide solid waste management or policy.”

Section 22a-262(5) limited the scope of MIRA to “development of new industries, technologies and commercial enterprises “on property owned by the authority...” (My emphasis). Mayor Bronin and the Hartford City Council have been opposed to any solution that does not eliminate the MIRA facility and

If we reframe waste management as an economic development opportunity and are willing to make the investments, we can attract new businesses to convert our waste to new products, transportation fuels, and heat and power with reduced environmental impacts. While DEEP, MIRA, and the Governor sort out whose job it is to do what, the Hartford Solid Waste Task Force (SWTF) is exploring the best available commercial technologies for materials and energy recovery as part of its efforts to develop a zero-waste strategy for the City. The South Meadows was one of ten transformative projects identified in the City’s updated plan of conservation and development. State decisions about the future of MIRA will have a significant impact. To follow the work of the SWTF, contact Haylee Green-Ortiz (Haylee.Green-Ortiz@hartford.gov) to be added to the distribution list for meeting notifications. The task force meets the second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m..



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

President Trump, Go Out Like a Star!

Back in the Vietnam Era, some Democrats suggested that we just “Claim victory and leave.” Well, Nixon kind of did just that.

As a lifelong conservative Republican, your reporter takes no pleasure in the probable electoral disaster about to descend on the G.O.P. Donald Trump has never been a true conservative Republican and has turned the part into a defender of his excesses and tawdry behavior. His own utterances will be used by the Democratic Party to curtail Republican power for many years. Our only hope is “Claim victory and leave,” allowing us to pick a sensible, youthful standard bearer who would contrast well with a faltering Democratic re-tread.

Today, with a looming “Blue Wave” of historic proportions (especially in Connecticut), the future of the Republican Party reminds one of the fate of the Whig Party in the 1850s. The Whigs kind of lost themselves and eventually split over the race issue (i.e. slavery) and a lack of any sustained set of basic issues. History may well repeat itself and, with Trump seemingly lusting after a civil war, one wonders what would replace the Grand Old Party if it implodes.

So, as revelations of various Presidential misdeeds pile up, as military heroes and veteran conservatives jump ship, now is the time for a broad stroke by the Trumpster. Maybe a slight dip in the virus this October could be the October surprise! Claim victory!

A possible opening on the Supreme Court comes down while the Senate is still red. Change the complexion of the court and...claim victory!

The economy can’t get much worse so the congress will bail us out once again with fiat money, keeping the bread lines down to just a few miles and the unemployment numbers just below depression levels. Claim victory!

North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan all stay out of the news for a couple of weeks because of the resurgence of the pandemic and nobody notices Trump’s backsliding on his bellicose promises. Claim victory!

Despite the Trump administration’s work against environmentally-minded regulations, the air has gotten cleaner thanks to less people driving and flying. Claim victory!

We may have a rainy, cold fall and early winter, cutting down the marches and demonstration. So we won’t need the storm troopers doing a Portland all over the country. Claim victory!

If one reads the book *The Presidents* by CSPAN, you will find examples of presidents who were only elected for one term – Teddy Roosevelt, for example – and found a place in history. John Adams, John Quincy Adams, James Polk and Jimmy Carter are all looked at by history a bit more favorably than they were when they were in office. Maybe the dumpster fire that is now occupying the White House will also look better in retrospect. Claim victory!

This reporter takes no pleasure in the potential of an eighty year old president giving in constantly to the left wing of the party of JFK (by today’s standards, not his). So the only hope for the Republican Party is for Trump to steal a page from Lyndon Johnson’s book and, you guessed it, “Claim victory and leave!”



Two city parks receive \$500,000 grants

At the July 21st State Bond Commission meeting, an agenda item was passed that has allocated \$500,000 for Colt Park and \$500,000 for Pope Park under the Grants-in-Aid for Urban Development Projects. The funds were requested to provide funding to the City of Hartford for the renovation of ballfields and related facilities at the two parks. Thanks go to State Senator John Fonfara, State Representative Julio Concepcion, and State Representative Minnie Gonzalez for working hard on this project. The grant to Colt Park was sought to fulfill the funding requirements for its Phase I projects. Shown above is Ballfield Number 9 in Colt Park under construction. The new field has been named in honor of Hartford native Johnny Taylor.

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Letter to the Editor

An open letter to Mayor Luke Bronin and City Council Members

We, the people of Hartford, are sick of not being listened to regarding the Hartford Police Department. Last week, a City Council meeting was held in which the Working Families Party members presented a resolution requiring that Jason Thody be suspended from his duties as police chief until an outside investigation into his reckless driving and the subsequent cover-up was concluded. Numerous members of the Hartford community called in to express that they wish for Jason Thody to be relieved of his duties. The only two members of the City Council who took unto account the opinion of the general public were WFP members. The other council members dismissed the concerns expressed during public comment.

Jason Thody drove recklessly for at least 10 minutes on May 31st, as evidenced by a call from a retired civil servant. He endangered everyone on the road and got into an accident as a result of his behavior. Then

Anyone else would not be able to get away with this behavior. But he has been allowed to continue his duties as if nothing happened. At the very least, [Police Chief] Jason Thody should be suspended (with pay, as required) until an independent investigation into his actions has been conducted.

there was an obvious cover-up of his actions. Was Jason Thody driving while intoxicated? Most likely; it fits his history of substance abuse and resultant violence. But his word was taken as fact that he was not intoxicated. Anyone else would not be able to get away with this behavior. But he has been allowed to continue his duties as if nothing happened.

At the very least, Jason Thody should be suspended (with pay, as required) until an independent investigation into his actions has been conducted. In reality, he should be dismissed from his position, as the public has requested repeatedly—a position which he was pretty much given without a search for other candidates and without listening to the feedback of the public, who expressed doubt from the beginning about his fitness for the position.

It is sad to see in today’s climate, where activists across the country are calling for police accountability, that Jason Thody is facing little-to-no consequences for his recklessness and his subsequent lies. And for the Mayor and the majority of the City Council to ignore these egregious acts is unconscionable.

It is all well and good to pose for photo opportunities with certain community activists who are convinced that Jason Thody has their best interests in mind. We all know this is pure rhetoric. How can a man who is actively dodging accountability for his own actions possibly be trusted to hold the police department accountable?

Community members and activists will not stand by while this corruption goes in under our very noses. Thody must be terminated! He has proven himself unfit for this position. We will not stop rallying surrounding this issue until the appropriate action is taken.

Thody must go, and any city official who participates in and co-signs lies and cover-ups must go too. The people will not be silent!

Joanna Iovino,
Representing Citizens Opposed to Police States (COPS)

\$600,000 Approved for North End Streetscape

State Representative Brandon L. McGee Jr. has announced that the State Bond Commission has approved \$600,000 in streetscape construction for a segment of North Main Street in Hartford, stretching from Earle Street and Boce Barlow Way to the Windsor town line.

"This allocation is the culmination of a nearly 7-year push, spanning three mayoral terms, community meeting after community meeting and public survey after survey," McGee said. "Thank you to the Governor for recognizing the need to invest in small businesses and in making transportation, housing and WiFi more accessible in a neighborhood often overlooked for such

projects."

In 2014, Rep. McGee announced a plan entitled "Reimagine, Revitalize, Reassert Main St," which called for investments of this magnitude that would finance the improvement of sidewalks, building of shelters for commuters waiting for the bus, affordable housing construction and small business development along the corridor.

"I also want to thank my local Neighborhood Revitalization Zone for their years of advocacy for the residents of the North End," he continued. "I'm grateful that these dollars will meet the communities of North Hartford where they're needed most. Now, let's get to work."



Bushnell Ballet

West End resident Carolyn Paine (left) recently gave an outdoor ballet class at Bushnell Park in Downtown Hartford. Her students for the evening were fellow dancers Brian Syms, Jr. (above) and Alex Zarlengo. (Hart photos)

Galleries at Real Art Ways Re-Open Today

Real Art Ways (RAW), 56 Arbor Street, Hartford, is scheduled to re-open their art galleries today after being shut down in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday: 11am to 12 noon for Real Art Ways members only; and 12 noon to 3pm for the general public.

Visits can be arranged by appointment, Monday through Wednesday, please email Neil Daigle Orians, norians@realartways.org.

RAW is also planning to host outdoor movie screenings Starting in August.

RAW currently has five exhibits by different artists, one new and four that were on view when the shutdown started.

Los Paisanos: Narratives of the Chinese Diaspora in Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Immigration, assimilation, and cultures in flux, are timely and very human subjects. Dorcas Tang documents a community of the Chinese diaspora living in Costa Rica. Photographs, found objects, and audio tell a complex story of migration and cultural exchange.

Skinny Boy Lookin' Like Deer in Headlights

Fresh out of college, Julian Johnson was selected for a Real Art Award in 2019. His memoir-like exhibition displays a keen eye and touching vulnerability.

Time-Space Compression

Geoffrey Detrani uses drawing materials and acrylic paint to create

his complex layered paintings. He incorporates aspects of organic and inorganic mark making and transfers, creating ghostly images the viewer could almost dive into.

Space Around A Porcupine

The worlds created by Morgan Bulkeley in his sculptures and paintings are multifaceted and serious, but far from solemn. His work tells stories, and one of the stories is about narrative itself.

Hail Eve, Full of Grief and Earthly Delights

An installation by Alexis Crowley utilizing mythologies and memo-

ries to explore the process of grief. Exploring a variety of media and techniques, Crowley’s work offers multiple ways for the viewer to interpret life, bodies, and death.

To maintain safety, RAW staff is taking the following precautions:

- RAW’s internal Covid-19 task force has been meeting weekly, covering all aspects of re-opening.
- The gallery is paying attention, first and foremost, to the science. Sten H. Vermund, Dean of the Yale School of Public

Continued on page 6

CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The first semi-annual installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2019, and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle List, were due and payable on July 1, 2020.

Failure to pay any tax due July 1, 2020, on or before August 3, 2020, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest, from the due date, at the rate of 1 ½ % per full or partial month. Any delinquent tax is subject to a minimum interest charge of two dollars (\$2.00).

Since failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or, in the event of delinquency, respective penalties, taxpayers who do not receive a bill by the end of the first full week of January should request a duplicate from the Division of Assessment and Collections.

Payments may be mailed to the address on the bills. Payments may also be made online at www.hartford.gov/tax or in the drop box located outside the Office of the Tax Collector, 550 Main Street, Room 106, Hartford, Connecticut, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and excluding holidays. Payments may also be made in person at the address above. Tax Office hours TBD for month of July and August 2020.

Nancy Raich, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Hartford

Hartford Decide\$ Announces Winning Projects

Hartford Decide\$, Hartford’s participatory budgeting initiative now in its fourth year, announces the winning projects in this year’s cycle. They are:

- 1st Place: \$25,000 for Keney Park Fitness Trail
- 2nd Place: \$20,000 for Urban Thinkscapes
- 3rd Place: \$5,000 for Bushnell Park Ice Rink Enhancements

Hartford Decide\$ is a democratic, community-driven participatory budgeting process in which Hartford residents decide how to spend a designated portion of the City’s capital budget on public improvements. Hartford Decide\$ engages community members in a process of identifying and developing project ideas and then voting to determine which of the projects will be funded. This year the City of Hartford allocated \$50,000 in capital funds for Hartford residents 13 years of age and up to decide how to spend.

There were a total of eight projects on the ballot, all of them proposed and developed by Hartford residents from all over the City including a number of high school students. Two of the winning projects, the Keney Park Fitness Trail and the Bushnell Park Ice Rink Enhancements, were developed by the high school students in collaboration with community partners (the Keney Park Sustainability Project and the iQuilt Partnership, respectively). The third winning project, Urban Thinkscapes, was developed by an action team made up of Hartford residents in collaboration with Hartford Public Library.

1st Place: Keney Park Fitness Trail (\$25,000)

Installation of a 12-14 station fitness trail. Each station will offer a different activity or exercise such as rowing machine, elliptical cross trainer, butterfly, parallel bars, and others.

2nd Place: Urban Thinkscapes (\$20,000)

The focus for this project will be to install Playful Learning Spaces at two neighborhood branches of the Hartford Public Library. Play is the foundation for creativity, constructive problem solving, self-regulation, and learning as a whole. These installations will be based on proven play-based methods, tailored to the needs and culture of each neighborhood. Guided forms of play can help children to develop specific targeted skills in areas such as math, literacy, spatial awareness, and language. Since children only spend an estimated 20% of their waking hours in formal school environments, creating these Playful Learning Spaces in neighborhood branches of the library will give children living in these neighborhoods access to playful learning opportunities during the remaining 80% of their time. These installations may be indoors or outdoors.

3rd Place: Bushnell Park Ice Rink Enhancements (\$5,000)

This project was developed by Hartford high school students. Ten skating aids will be purchased to help new skaters or those with physical limitations learn how to skate. Two outdoor igloos will be purchased to provide a comfortable place for skaters and family or friends to rest and warm up. Last year 42,016 skaters used the rink, and about 70% were Hartford residents.

More details on the remaining five projects may be found at www.hartforddecides.org.

Hartford Decide\$ results in the implementation of valuable projects chosen by the community

and, equally important, also builds the capacity of multiple stakeholders with diverse interests to work together for the greater good of the community. This year’s winning projects will be implemented over the next several months.

Participatory budgeting was first developed in Brazil in 1989 and in the ensuing years spread through South America and then Europe. In the past several years it has begun to be used in the United States, first in Chicago and New York. In 2016, Hartford became the first city in Connecticut to use the participatory budgeting process. 2021 will mark the fifth anniversary of Hartford Decide\$.

Cristina Chillogalli, Board Chair of Hartford Decide\$, said, “We were so pleased to have eight

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Independence Day Decorations

On Friday, July 3, the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) decorated Barry Square with dozens of American flags in honor of Independence Day on July 4. Shown here are MARG Board member Bill Erikson, MARG President Hyacinth Yennie and Barry Square Community Service Officer (CSO) Dino Ahmetovic from the Hartford Police Department. (Hart photo)

Taste of the Caribbean Arts and Culture, Inc. presents...



ENCORE

of the Taste of the Caribbean, Hartford



Watch with us from home:
SATURDAY AUG 1ST || 7 PM EST ||

YouTube Instagram tasteCT.org vimeo f

Links available on @HartfordJerkFest on instagram, tastect.org and facebook.com/tastect.org

ORDER HERE



TasteCT meal \$special\$ available on Aug. 1st at Hartford's
DUNN'S RIVER | FIRE N' SPICE | JAHMSKE'S | LION'S DEN



SPONSORS:



Show Us the Money!

Six years down the road, diamonds still aren't Hartford's best friend

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

On this week in 2014, a diverse group of city activists took to the streets to protest the “done deal” announced by then-Mayor Pedro Segarra that Hartford was going to build a grand and glorious Minor League baseball stadium to house the Rock Cats—a team that was defecting from their home field in New Britain because the facilities there weren’t sumptuous enough for team owner, the uber-wealthy Josh Solomon. Were we protesting because we were against baseball? Hell no! Our objection was to the plan to have city taxpayers fund what at that time was proposed to be a \$60 million project, a cost that has

media. We spoke out at every city public event, wrote op-eds. Public opinion kept shifting to our side, and the city got nervous.

The mayor’s plan changed several times after that; private investment would cover the cost, a public-private partnership would be formed. But the natives remained restless and we planned for a voter referendum. Segarra and company—along with Solomon—could not allow that to happen (they knew they would lose), and that’s when Wooden reportedly concocted a foolproof plan. Voila! The Stadium Authority was born in January 2015; a bogus quasi-public, quasi-



since more than doubled. A deal that had been concocted in secret between the team and Segarra—with able assistance from then-City Council president Shawn Wooden. Following that July 21st march, I and a growing number of others were interviewed by TV and print

private city commission with hand picked members (the usual suspects) that would bond the needed millions and “own” the stadium—not the city, which precluded the mandate for a referendum—and the taxpayers would still be on the

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Real Art Ways Re-opens

Continued from page 3

Health, has been leading sessions on re-opening Connecticut art venues. Real Art Ways has participated in each session, touching on all aspects of re-opening. Dr. Vermund has been extremely helpful, focusing on

- You will be required to wear a face mask at all times during your visit.
- Check-in upon arrival at the front counter.
- Maintain a minimum physical distance of 6 feet from people not in your party.



“Space Around A Porcupine” by Morgan Bulkeley is one of five exhibits now on display at the recently re-opened Real Art Ways, 56 Arbor Street, Hartford.

- what to do, and how to think about it.
- RAW has been in frequent contact with colleagues - museums, theaters, cinemas, and arts centers, nationally and locally, sharing best practices and information.
 - If you plan on visiting RAW, please be advised of the following precautions:
 - If you are not feeling well, stay home.
 - Maximum capacity in the galleries and public spaces at one time will be 20 people.
 - Cleaning and safety protocols in accordance with the CDC and state recommendations are in place.
 - Tables and chairs have been set up in the main gallery that are distanced. You are welcome to sit in the space. There is no time limit for your stay.

Hartford Decides

Continued from page 5

great projects on the ballot in this very challenging year. Even with the limitations of the pandemic,

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF David Wayne Johnston, AKA David W. Johnston (20-00576)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated July 17, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Nancy Sherman Johnston
13891 Chelmsford Drive #204
Gainesville, VA 20155

LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I,
GJINOVEFA LUARI
61A GRAHAM RD
EAST HARTFORD, CT
06118-2129

Have filed an application placarded 07/22/2020 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at

5 CONSTITUTION PLZ
HARTFORD CT 06103-1822

The business will be owned by:
P2B DOWNTOWN, LLC

Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment

Objections must be filed by:
09-02-2020

GJINOVEFA LUARI

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Theresa M. Moran (20-00539)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated July 20, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Michael Moran
c/o Mary Anne Charron
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Mary Anne A Charron,
34 Jerome Avenue #120,
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Hartford residents worked together to make the participatory budgeting process happen. Hartford Decide\$ results in the completion of some wonderful projects but also engages people from all walks of life and gives them a direct voice in deciding how to spend a portion of the City’s capital funds.”

“I want to congratulate the three winning teams and thank all of the residents who participated in Hartford Decide\$ this year,” said Mayor Luke Bronin. “These thoughtful, community-driven projects will improve our parks and provide a new space for our youngest residents to learn and play. We are grateful to everyone who makes Hartford Decide\$ possible.”

“City Council has always valued the participatory budgeting process and I congratulate

Hartford Decide\$ on their fourth year doing this incredible work,” said Council President Maly D. Rosado. “I am so grateful to the students and community members who took the time to submit proposals and vote on this year’s projects. We look forward to seeing the winning ideas realized and encourage more residents to get involved.”

“We are so proud of our student winners,” said School Superintendent Leslie Torres-Rodriguez. “Through the Hartford Decides process, they learned how to examine community needs, brainstorm project ideas, and develop those ideas into full proposals that will benefit Hartford. These student leaders have demonstrated impressive skills that will prepare them for college and life.”

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(Hartford) The Registrars of Voters Office

The City of Hartford Registrars of Voters will hold a registration session for persons wishing to become registered voters for the upcoming Presidential Preference, State/Municipal Primary that will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Date and Time for this Registration session will be as follows:
Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Persons wishing to become registered voters in Hartford must appear in the Office of the Registrars of Voters, located in Room 002 on the ground floor of the Municipal Building, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT and provide either the last four digits of their social security number or their Connecticut Driver’s License number at the time of registration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
*The deadline for mail-in applications of new voters must be received and postmarked by Thursday, August 6, 2020. For unaffiliated voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by this deadline.

*This is also the deadline for on-line voter registration for the August 11, 2020 Presidential Preference, State/Municipal Primary by 11:59 p.m.

In-person enrollment deadline for new voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling in a party, may do so in person at the Registrar of Voters Office from Friday, August 7, 2020 until 12:00 noon on August 10, 2020.

Josh Michtom Interview

Continued from page 6

a pretty safe route to getting elected. I don't know how that system can be dismantled, but I am certainly interested in trying. Obviously, if during charter reform we switched to nonpartisan elections it might have an effect. But the chances of that are slim to none. Short of that, there would have to be an insurrection within the DTC or a massive push by a third party to take away council seats.”

Charter revision on the horizon

“I definitely think we should decrease the mayor's power, and am open to many ways to do that; depriving him of broad appointment powers is a good way”, Michtom said in response to the question of what issues resonate strongly with him preparatory to the City Council taking on the long-awaited revision of the city charter later this year. “I also heard a lot of folks interested in district elections rather than at-large elections for council during the election campaign, so I want to look into that seriously. I would hope we could be thoughtful about how we do that. One thing I would love is if we drew districts that cut across the neighborhoods so that we wouldn't have some distinctly Black districts and other distinctly Latinx districts.

I think that when we set up systems that encourage a competition for resources between neighborhoods that way, we leave ourselves open, as a city, to exploitation from outside. I think we might also benefit from a hybrid system - some neighborhood districts, and some at-large seats with a set-aside for minority parties. Obviously, as a member of a minority party, that would help me, but it's important to recognize the structural advantages that Democrats have.” He'd like to see the city move to elected police commissioners or another system of empowered, truly independent police oversight. “Another thing we could do is make Council more effective, by making it a full-time job”, said Michtom. “As it stands, the mayor has a whole full-time staff, while we balance our day jobs and depend heavily on our council aides, who are not nearly as well-paid or resourced as the mayor's office. Making City Council full time would also open the job up to working class people who don't have the resources to do the extra part-time work that a part-time council demands.” Asked for his thoughts on the patronage appointment of council aides/assistants the current charter allows, a process that eliminates the need for the positions to be filled by application, resume, references, experience, education, and interview conducted by the city’s Department of Human

Resources, Michtom said “I wouldn't be averse to competitive hiring of aides or, if council were full time, having fewer, less political aides who had more clerical /civil service roles.”

Virtual council meetings

“Something is lost,” the councilman conceded. “People call in but then can't make Zoom work. They get frustrated and hang up. It's a system that's prone to bugs.” Recognizing the limitations put in place due to the pandemic, he said that without the in-person open public forum for meetings, as well as for public hearings and public comment, the lack of visible gestures, body language, and eye contact leaves a lot to be desired. At the beginning of the year, the current City Council changed the rules, and now disallows any verbal interaction with—or questions directed to—speakers who address that body. Michtom says he has no idea why that happened, but surmises that they just want everything to go as quickly as possible. He noted that “Other cities have marathon council sessions”, and that “it would be great to have a full-time council allowing Hartford to do the same, even if that means we're there until midnight. I also wish that the public would be allowed more time to speak.”

Show Us The Money!

Continued from page 6

hook. Pure genius, and also the seed that grew to become one of the major contributing factors leaving Hartford teetering on the abyss of bankruptcy, from which we've never fully recovered. By the way, whatever happened to Wooden? Oh yeah; now he's in charge of the State's money. And the newly-appointed Acting Director of Development Services and former Chair of the Stadium Authority I. Charles Mathews was also active behind the scenes in 2014, touting the stadium-to-be as a promised land for the hurting North End of Hartford. Some speculate he was in the employ of Solomon at that time.

Fast-forward to July 2020. There's probably not enough red ink in the city to keep the Stadium Authority's ledgers up-to-date. We lose. We lose big time every year, to the tune of approximately \$4.5 million due on those construction bonds. And the most egregiously one-sided development deal in the city's history almost guarantees that the red ink will flow like wine for the life of the Yard Goats' 26-year contract. There's a near-meatless bone in that contract that allows Hartford a \$225,000 annual cut of the naming rights and some revenue from the two city-owned parking areas used on game days. That and rent from the team—our only sources of income—generates about \$800,00 a year for the credit

side of the ledger; the debit side hovers between \$3.5 and \$4 million a year. By the way, the State “bailout” money specifically cannot be used to pay on the stadium bonds; that onus is on you, me, and every city resident. And this year, per that lopsided contract, the Yard Goats don't have to pay the rent because they're not playing ball. However, “King” Solomon did secure one of those federal PPP payroll protection loans to the tune of one million dollars.

Is it a beautiful stadium? For sure! Sellout crowds? All the time! Fun for the family? You bet! But while the team owner with no skin in the game gleefully rakes in several million every season, we have to pay out those same millions. The presence of the stadium, opened in 2017, has done nothing for Hartford's economy except take a big fat bite out of it. That's supposed to change with the advent of DoNo development. The question is, when will that happen? Does the wealthy developer have his funding in place—an estimated \$300,000 million? Will the pandemic change the timeline? Will he get tired of waiting and seek to break the contract? And how about Solomon? What if baseball is still on hold next season due to restrictions on gatherings? Will he also be looking for the exit?

The only thing that's sure is we, the people, will continue to wait... and pay and pay and pay.

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Hartford South End

1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Appliances included. Parking. Call John 860-805-4111.

Hartford, North End

3 bedrooms, 44 Edgewood St. Large rooms. Stove, fridge, washer/dryer hookups in kitchen. Very nice condition. Cold flat. \$1,100 monthly plus one month security deposit. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-983-5939.

Apartments for Rent

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295-297 Garden St. Hartford

Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650.

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Room For Rent

Rooms for rent in Hartford's West End. Utilities included. \$140 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

For Rent

Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Available NOW. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a spacious 1-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$800 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a large 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

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El Informativo Latino

El Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut actualiza estadísticas y servicios

El 16 de Julio, los notarios del Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut, Kurt Westby y el diputado de la comisión, Danté Bartolomeo se comunicaron con los medios para publicar las cifras actualizadas de aplicaciones por desempleo que la agencia recibió, la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales reveló el nuevo número de, junto con el seguimiento para incrementar el Centro de Contacto del Consumidor, el cual es financiado con fondos federales. El Centro de Contacto del Consumidor, una iniciativa de cuatro millones de dólares financiada con fondos federales, ya está operando. Este Centro de Contacto cuenta con un Sistema de teléfono bilingüe que ofrece la posibilidad de devolver el llamado a aquellos que se encuentren en espera por más de cinco minutos. También cuenta con una nueva página web que moderniza cómo se es presentada la información de cinco programas de beneficios federales y estatales; una opción de chat instantáneo; y a Tina, una nueva asistente virtual bilingüe, quien podrá contestar preguntas y ayudar a hacer preguntas en línea.

El Notario Westby dijo, “La pandemia sigue impactando notoriamente los negocios, industria y a los trabajadores, y está resultando en una continua y extraordinaria alta cantidad de aplicaciones de desempleo, en tan solo cinco meses, hemos recibido el mismo número que en cinco años. El Centro de Contacto del Consumidor nos permite asistir a más residentes de diferentes maneras a la hora de aplicar para los cinco programas de beneficios actualmente disponibles. El personal y plataformas adicionales demuestran un gran progreso para quien demande sus servicios—pero no eliminará por completo el tiempo de espera y procesos para los residentes. Quiero agradecer a nuestros socios federales por su asistencia y apoyo.”

El diputado notario Bartolomeo dijo, “El Centro de Contacto nos da una forma más moderna y comprensiva para poder conectarnos directamente con los demandantes, algo que se perdió cuando COVID 19 obligó a que cerráramos 18 Centros de Trabajo Americanos. No esperamos un fin inmediato a los tiempos de espera, pero el Centro de Contacto nos ha permitido atender más llamadas y manejar más casos por día. También nos da la oportunidad de hablar directamente con nuestros clientes, ayudarlos a resolver sus problemas y responder sus preguntas.”

Además de la nueva plataforma de comunicación, los fondos federales han permitido al Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut a sumar 60 nuevos agentes de atención al cliente al equipo. Mientras nuestra capacitación de personal generalmente dura tres o cuatro meses y tradicionalmente incluye experiencias en la clase y prácticas, con la intención de acelerar el número de agentes de servicio al consumidor disponibles, el Departamento de Trabajo de CT ha cambiado para que el personal pueda ejercer luego de solo un mes de capacitación, al juntarlos con un agente de servicio al cliente con vasta experiencia para que los guíe mejor.

Los fondos Federales para el Centro de Contacto expirarán a fin de año.

Desde el 13 de marzo de 2020, el Departamento de Trabajo de CT ha:

- Recibido 708,462 aplicaciones y procesado 685,820 de ellas. Actualmente estamos trabajando en aplicaciones desde el 30 de junio de 2020; y
- Reporta alrededor de reclamos enviados 300,000 semanales (combinando programas estatales y federales)

El tiempo de proceso de la aplicación era de seis semanas al principio de la pandemia, luego bajo una semana menos antes de la Compensación de Emergencia por Desempleo por la Pandemia y el programa de Beneficios Extendidos está ahora a 2-3 semanas, debido a la incorporación de esos nuevos programas. Antes de la pandemia, el Departamento de Trabajo de CT podía procesar aplicaciones en tres días.

El Departamento de Trabajo de CT ha pagado un total de \$3.8B en beneficios por desempleo estatal y federal; \$1.35B en beneficios de desempleo estatal y \$2.46B en beneficios por desempleo federales. En detalle:

- \$133M en Asistencia por Desempleo tras la Pandemia (PUA) – para quien no califica para recibir beneficios de desempleo regulares,
- \$61M Compensación por Desempleo de Emergencia tras la Pandemia (PEUC) – para quienes hayan utilizado beneficios regulares de Desempleo (UI);
- \$164K en otros beneficios estatales, \$1.8M en otros beneficios federales; y
- \$2.46B en Compensación Federal por Desempleo tras la Pandemia (FPUC) – los \$600 de beneficio adicional por semana termina el 25 de Julio del 2020.

El actual Fondo Fiduciario es de 122 millones de dólares y al día de hoy, los oficiales del Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut no han solicitado aún, pero están preparados para cuando sea necesario.

Durante los últimos cinco meses, el Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut estima que ha recibido alrededor de 500 aplicaciones de desempleo de empleados estatales de tiempo completo actuales, quienes no califican para recibir beneficios por desempleo. Solicitado bajo ley estatal, la agencia ha reportado esto a los auditores estatales y comenzado investigaciones en dichas aplicaciones. Hasta ahora, el Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut no ha encontrado evidencia de fraude de parte de empleados estatales, tan solo que son víctimas de robo de identidad, actividad criminal perpetrada sin su consentimiento, o que no comprendieron las regulaciones sobre los beneficios por desempleo de los empleados de medio tiempo.

Los ataques criminales hacia el Departamento de Trabajo de CT y todos los Departamentos de Trabajo en todo el país han aumentado en los meses recientes, causados por los nuevos programas de beneficios Federales. El Departamento de Trabajo de Connecticut continúa apoyando a nuestros socios federales, agencias estatales, cumplimiento de la ley, y agencias afiliadas para combatir todas las incidencias de fraude, terminar con reclamos fraudes, y proteger a t

lugares donde hacerte la prueba en ct.gov/coronavirus



HAZTE LA PRUEBA



Helping Hands for the 3rd District

For the past several months State Representative Minnie Gonzales (shown above with Ramon Arroyo) has been collecting, packing and delivering food and household products to senior housing complexes in her district to assist those who had trouble going shopping due to the COVID-19 shutdown.